2nd November 2022

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 52158/22

''To ask the Minister for Health the total cybersecurity structures currently in place within the health service; the number of persons who are employed in cybersecurity in Ireland; and the annual budget.''

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The HSE has following the cyber-attack implemented a large number or enhancements across its operating domain. In addition to investments in cyber security tools and technologies, the HSE has stood up dedicated teams to ensure that the multi-faceted threats across the cyber domain can be appropriately managed and responded. Given the complex nature cyber, and the evolving complexity of our systems the cyber response capability requires an end to coverage across the security lifecycle, including but not limited to having end to end security policies, cyber platforms management, security operations and incident response capability such that health services functions cannot be disrupted through cyber incidents.

The HSE continues to improve the Cyber Security Risk posture through the establishment of a security organisation under the management of a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) with a focus on all aspects of information security management with dedicated teams that provide coverage across:

- Information Security Policies

- Information Security Risk Management

- Data Security Governance Standards

- Security Platforms Management

- Infrastructure Security Management

- Security Operations Monitoring and Response

The above are currently supported by a combination of approximately 25 fulltime HSE staff and contracted strategic Cyber Security partners and experts who together help manage the security posture of the HSE. The annual budget to help improve our cyber posture across the organisation is €2m for this team, with additional recurring funding of €4.5m for external contracts services related to Cyber security. There will also be once off funding provided in 2023 of €40m for year 1 of the Cyber transformation programme.

Many other staff within the eHealth division have Cyber responsibilities as part of their main job however for clarity these have not been included here.

If you feel that the question has not been fully answered or you require any further clarity, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fran Thompson,
Chief Information Officer, eHealth, HSE.